

Washington, DC — Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) will lead House Democrats in a special order on the House floor tonight to discuss the nomination of Utah Governor Mike Leavitt to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This morning the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will hold a hearing on the nomination. Three Senate Democrats have said they will block the Senate from voting on Leavitt's nomination until the administration has explained an array of environmental policies.

Blumenauer will question Governor Leavitt's environmental record, which has been praised by some governors but sharply criticized by national and Utah environmental groups. Leavitt became well-known for his cooperative problem-solving philosophy that he termed "enlibra."

"The Environmental Protection Agency is charged with protecting the nation's environment and public health," said Blumenauer. "The environmental record of Governor Leavitt or anyone set to lead the agency should undergo careful scrutiny. The issue is not about making up words to cover inaction or anti-environmental action. It is about telling the truth about environmental and public health consequences."

Blumenauer and other Democrats will also speak about the contentious issues that Leavitt will have to deal with as the new EPA Administrator: the defunding and removal of critical and hazardous Superfund sites from the national priority list, the administration's recent and controversial rollbacks to the Clean Air Act's New Source Review Program, and the removal of information on global warming from the recent EPA "State of the Environment" report.

The special order will take place during the fourth special order hour after votes, starting at approximately 11:00 pm EDT.